

Tail Blazers was created ten years ago because there was a need to address the preventable, diet-related health issues that dogs and cats were facing. Thanks to pet guardians that were willing to learn and ready to embrace change, many of our domestic companions are now eating and thriving on raw diets. The success of the raw food movement has also encouraged many companies to develop and market high quality grain-free dry foods. Even canned foods and treats have improved!

Perhaps the biggest and most notable change over the last ten years has been the huge and ever-expanding selection of healthy, species appropriate foods. Unfortunately, two of the most common ailments that have prompted pet guardians to visit Tail Blazers are still running rampant through our pet population. Cancer and Allergies.

Cancer and allergies are still responsible for far too many visits to the vet and all too much pain and suffering for both our pets, and their human companions. Although we do have many success stories, we still have many people to reach.

Both Cancer and Allergies have many causes, but let us first address Cancer*. It may be shocking to believe now, but in the 80's there were very few doctors that believed diet had any impact on Cancer. Today there has been wide-spread success of TV shows like Dr. Oz that cover in detail the role that food and lifestyle play in preventing cancer. Research is continuing to reveal how certain foods can reduce the risk of certain Cancers by as much as 75%!

So what causes cancer? Similarities have been found between Cancer and the process of ageing. All of the cells in the body reproduce new cells and the intervals at which they reproduce can vary from minutes to years. If the cells in the body were properly cared for and were healthy cells, they will reproduce new healthy cells. However, if those cells were unhealthy they would reproduce new unhealthy, problematic cells. These errors in replication contribute to progression of the ageing process and are the first stages of Cancer.

This process is a normal process that all people experience. Science has proven that many things can increase the likelihood of replication errors. Some factors include sugar, toxins, radiation, and congenital defects. As we age, there is an increase in replication errors. This increase in errors can be likened to photocopying the same piece of paper over and over again. If you have a high quality copier (for our pets, a body fed a good diet and live in a chemical-free environment) you will get many, high quality copies and years out of your copier. If you have a cheap copier (for our pets, a body fed lots of poor quality pet food and sugars and live in an environment full of toxins and chemicals) you will likely have fewer, low quality copies.

One of the important roles of the immune system is to identify errors in replication and eliminate them. If the immune system is impaired then the errors get reproduced and eventually lead to Cancer. So, the most important thing we can do to prevent Cancer is to provide the body with the best possible environment for healthy cell replication by giving the immune system the support it needs to do so.

Chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery do nothing to prevent the Cancer from occurring. They just kill the cancer, and unfortunately many other cells as well. And if there are little or no changes to the environment in the body, most cancers will return.

For our pets, there are three primary causes for a bad physical environment within the body.

Food

Food is the biggest, most important aspect in Cancer prevention. If other pet food retailers took the same measures that we at Tail Blazers take when choosing their foods, that alone would likely cause a significant drop in Cancer. It is unfortunate, but the only way these Cancer causing diets will go away is if consumers refuse to purchase them and instead purchase higher quality, healthier diets that will force them to improve if they want to survive.

Consumers supporting the foods we carry have created more change in the last ten years than any regulatory changes could have. The change has been significant, but let's take it to the next level.

Sugar and carbohydrates are two of the biggest Cancer causing ingredients that we ingest. Corn is an example of a “filler” ingredient commonly seen in lower quality foods that is very high on the glucose index. Dogs and cats were not designed to eat these ingredients, and when they do it has an even more significant impact on them, than it does on humans. The immune system can become extremely compromised when exposed to sugars and carbs as they can actually “feed” Cancer. There are many scientific studies that link sugars to Cancer and therefore they should be eliminated from the diet of any pet suffering from Cancer or Allergies.

Unfortunately this is much easier said than done. There are NO grocery store brand pet foods that contain low levels of carbs and no added sugar. NOT ONE. It is in our opinion that these foods have contributed, and continue to contribute to, the increase in Cancer in pets.

Purina's top of the line “Pro Plan Selects” would barely make it on the market if healthy diets were our benchmark. And most Medi-Cal prescription diets would not pass the low carbohydrate - no sugar - test either.

The most important decision you will make to prevent Cancer in your pet is the food you choose. But be careful to also be mindful of the treats you choose. Soft treats can contain sugars that act as binders and create that soft texture your pet loves. These sugars can also fall under many names: corn syrup, cane sugar, etc...

Dark green and orange vegetables, kale, spinach, broccoli, squash, kelp, sea algae, etc, are all good examples of foods that help prevent Cancer. This is a great example of why

at Tail Blazers we frequently recommend a raw food diet. Not only do they have little or no ingredients that contribute to Cancer, but they also contain ingredients that help reduce the risk of Cancer.

Environment

Household items that we use everyday like cleansers, scented candles, deodorizing sprays, carpet cleaners, etc, on their own are not enough to cause a problem, but when they are all bundled together they can expose our pets to more chemicals than their bodies can process. This causes their bodies to break down, or age faster than they normally would have.

Genetics

Genetics have also been shown to contribute to your pet's likelihood of developing Cancer. For example, black dogs are more prone to Cancer, and it also runs in families. Since this is an area most of us have little control over, it highlights the importance of making significant changes to the areas you can control as mentioned above.

In conclusion, remember to choose low carbohydrate foods and treats that contain no added sugar. Ensure that the food you choose contains high quality protein and fat sources such as meat – and ideally they would also contain green veggies and blue and/or orange coloured fruits. Make sure your household cleaners and yard fertilizers are environmentally safe.

If your pet already has Cancer, or has had Cancer, the above recommendations are of the utmost importance. A raw food diet is HIGHLY recommended as from a diet perspective it gives the immune system the best chance.

There are also some amazing new supplements that give the immune system the nutrients it needs to be alert and responsive not only to Cancer cells, but also to the first stages of cell reproduction that are flawed.

Supplements

1. IP6 – IP6 is a powerful antioxidant that can be found in high fibre foods like whole grains.
2. K-9 Immunity - K-9 Immunity is one of the most exciting items we have seen for Cancer since Ip6. It contains three of the most widely used anticancer immune-modulator compounds used in the world today.
3. K-9 Trans Factor - K-9 Trans Factor works synergistically with K-9 Immunity to increase the immune response. For more information go to www.dogcancer.ca

4. Dog-Immune – From the makers of K-9 Immunity, Dog-Immune is a daily supplement used as a Cancer preventative.

5. Essiac – Essiac is a herbal blend of Burdock, Slippery Elm, Sheep Sorrel Leaves, and Indian Rhubarb root. It helps the body increase its immune function while also giving liver support for cleansing.

The above supplements (available at participating Tail Blazers locations) are some of the best out there and there are so many other natural measures that can be taken to help the body eliminate Cancer. Even if you choose to do surgery, chemo, or radiation it is important to remember that you have to take measures to ensure that the Cancer does not come back.

Please help Tail Blazers in our mission to educate pet guardians on how to prevent Cancer. Please pass this on to all the pet lovers in your life and perhaps we can help prevent a few more pets from developing this horrible disease...

*Please stayed tuned for Part 2 of this article where Allergies will be addressed.

The information in this article should in no way replace medical advice from a qualified Veterinarian.